





## The Daily Standard.

Friday, January 26, 1873.

### The Legitimacy Bill.

This Bill passed a second reading on Wednesday, but not until a lively discussion was had upon it. The legal element in the House opposed the measure on purely legal grounds, while the larger number of the members supported it on the grounds of justice and equity. The arguments employed last year to defeat this bill, were reiterated this year. It was at variance with the Common Law of England, it was unconstitutional, the local Legislature had no jurisdiction in the matter, the right to legislate upon the subject was vested exclusively in the Dominion House of Commons according to the terms of union, etc. It is very well that all the members of the Legislature are not lawyers—that the majority are men of practical ideas, whose minds have not been cramped by years of study upon nice points of law, and who have not become so accustomed to be governed in their actions by precedent and what the book says, as to be incapable of giving expression to an original idea or taking a single step beyond that old beaten track marked out for them by Coke, Blackstone & Co. Mr. Beaven's Legitimacy Bill is of that character which commends itself not only to a very large majority of the members of the House, but we believe it also has the endorsement of a majority of the people throughout the country. We have no wish to be considered the apologists of any class of persons who, regardless both of human and divine law, live in a state of open adultery; and that there has been and is still too much of that kind of thing tolerated in the country, is a fact which all good men must deplore—but which is the more guilty parties, those who thus break the law or those who thus permit the law to be broken, is an open question. As we understand this subject, the object of the Bill is not to encourage the practice of adultery, but rather to cure the evil by holding out an inducement to persons living together unlawfully to avail themselves of its provisions, and by getting married within the period specified in the Act thereby legitimize their offspring and secure to them all the advantages they would have possessed had they been born in lawful wedlock. There are various reasons why such a law should be passed. There are very many persons living in this Province who came here in the service of the Hudson Bay Company, at a time when the only females to be found in the entire length and breadth of the Company's possessions were those of the natives, and as white women were not to be had and natives were better than none, they took native women for wives, and by them not a few raised large families of sons and daughters. None of these people at the time were lawfully married, for the very good reason that there was no one within reach legally qualified to perform the marriage ceremony. According to the law of England, all the children born under these circumstances are illegitimate and disqualified from inheriting any share of the property which their parents may possess, should they die intestate. There are scores, if not hundreds, of such persons scattered over the country, laboring under those legal disabilities, some of whose parents are in a measure indebted to their labors and exertions for the wealth they have accumulated; and yet if through any unforeseen accident resulting in death, and neglect on the part of the parents of these people to make a will, they might be turned loose upon the world without a dollar, and even the prospects of their own labor and industry be handed over to strangers by virtue of the law of England, because, forsooth, that law brands them as illegitimate, and not entitled to the same measure of protection as those whose good fortune it was to be born in wedlock. Any law that will so operate against innocent persons, smacks very much of barbarism. It is a twin brother to the law of primogeniture, which, in the event of a parent dying intestate, gives all the property to the eldest son, and robs every other member of the family. If a child is born out of wedlock, it is not the child's fault; nor should the sin of the parents be visited upon the child for a condition of things over which it had no control. If the parents are guilty of violation of the law, let them, and not their children, be punished for it. That would have both justice and common sense to commend it, and the administrators of the law instead of winking at and tolerating crime, would, as they should, be a terror to evil doers. The Lieutenant Governor will now be satisfied, we presume, that the Legislature and the public desire the enactment of this law, and will give effect to that desire by sanctioning the Bill. If the local Legislature possessed no power of legislation in a matter of this kind, the Dominion Government would most undoubtedly have said so. The fact that they did not say so, should be understood as an admission of the right of our Legislature to deal with the subject. It is in no way interferes with either the law of marriage or the law of divorce, but simply opens up a way for those who having children are now living unlawfully together to secure the legitimacy of their offspring by getting married, and also to legitimize all those persons who in early days were born out of wedlock, whose parents subsequently were married, but whose marriage in no way improved the legal status of such illegitimates. In every sense of the word the measure is a commendable one, and it is to be hoped no unnecessary obstacles will be thrown in the way to prevent it becoming law.

**CHRISTMAS**—It is scarcely necessary for us to enumerate the variety of articles upon exhibition at T. N. Hibben & Co.'s, Government street, in anticipation of the approaching holidays. There must be a concession in the minds of every resident here, for the past twelve years, that such an important occasion has never been slighted by us. We are justified in saying, that if one season has excelled another in a tempting array of Christmas-boxes, the present one will eclipse them all in variety, beauty, and attractiveness.

**A NOVELTY**—The latest novelty in the utility of paper is the manufacture of certain from this commodity. By the last steamer from San Francisco, Messrs. Turner, Beeton and Tunnall have received a large quantity of the above articles, of beautiful patterns, not to be distinguished from the best china; they are of the same description as those fitted in the saloons of the great exhibition building, at London, 1872.

**Memory presides over the past.** Fell's Coffee over the present. The first lives in a rich temple hung with glorious trophies, and lined with tombs, but Fell's Coffee has but one shrine and that is every breakfast table. Its aroma walks the earth like a spirit and can be found for sale at every respectable dealer in British Columbia. Beware of spurious imitations.

**Card of Thanks.**  
THE UNDERSIGNED RETURNS HIS heartfelt thanks to the Fire Department and citizens of Victoria for their efforts to save his property from ruin last night.  
P. GILLIGAN.  
Victoria, January 23rd, 1873.

**Notice.**  
ALL PERSONS INDEBTED TO THE undersigned will please call and settle their accounts before the 15th February or they will be placed in the hands of an attorney for collection. And persons having claims against him are requested to present them at once to  
P. MURPHY, or to  
FRANK CAMPBELL.  
Victoria, B. C., 22d January, 1873.

**Horse "Royal Bill."**  
The well known Horse ROYAL BILL will be put up for sale on the 5th prox. 100 TICKETS AT \$1 EACH.  
Tickets can be had at the following Saloons: The Brown Jug, The Grotto, The Merchant's Exchange, The Monarch, and of Mr. John Howard at Esquimalt. Due notice of time and place of sale will be given.  
Royal Bill is warranted sound and a good steady family horse. He can be seen at all hours at Mr. Beaven's Livery Stables on Yates street.

**A. CASAMAYOU & CO.,**  
OFFER FOR SALE  
EX "LADY LAMPSON."  
200 Cases Hennessy Brandy,  
100 Cases Martell Brandy,  
30 Cases Hennessy Cognac,  
100 Cases Old Jamaica Rum,  
100 Cases Scotch Whisky and Peat Whisky,  
100 Cases French Brandy and Cognac,  
30 Cases Scotch Whisky,  
30 Cases Cognac Brandy.  
No. 1 FRENCH LEATHER (Calcutta) and a general assortment of Wines, Liquors, Tobacco, Havana Cigars, Groceries, Provision, &c.  
j21 1m

**EX 'AMARANTH' FROM LIVERPOOL.**  
Liverpool Fine Dairy Salt in bags 112 lbs each,  
Fire Bricks,  
Roman & Portland Cement,  
Soda Crystals,  
Galvanized Iron Buckets,  
Earthenware,  
Guinness Stout, in quarts & pints,  
FOR SALE BY  
**SPROAT & CO.**  
Wharf Street, 20th January, 1873. j21 1m

**THE ANNUAL BALL**  
OF THE  
ST. ANDREW'S & Caledonian Society  
will be held in the  
**ROYAL EXCHANGE HALL.**  
On Government street, on the evening of FRIDAY 26th instant.  
Dancing to commence at 8 P. M.  
Tickets, admitting Gentlemen and Ladies, including Refreshments, 50c. To be had only from Messrs.  
MAYN, RUSSELL, RUTHERFORD, LORIMER, MUIRHEAD, and FRANK CAMPBELL.  
By Order  
W. LORIMER, Secretary. j21

**Dancing! Dancing!**  
MRS. MARTIN'S DANCING CLASS will in the future be held in the Old Sing Verein Hall, Government street, and will commence every Tuesday and Friday Evening, at 8 o'clock. Professor Schaeffer's full string band will be in attendance.  
j21

**Estate of Fell & Finlayson.**  
NOTICE.  
A DIVIDEND OF TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT. will be payable at the office of Norris & Whyte on Wednesday next, the 22nd inst., between the hours of 10 A. M. and 4 P. M.  
GEO. J. FINLAYSON, Assignee.  
VICTORIA, B. C., 24th Jan. 1873. j20

**PLUMMER & PAGDEN,**  
AUCTIONEERS, APPRAISERS,  
& ACCOUNTANTS  
AND  
COMMISSION AGENTS  
Wharf Street, Victoria.

**TO-MORROW AUCTION**  
CATALOGUE SALE OF  
**BOOKS AND PRINTS**  
Lowe, Stahlischmidt & Co.'s  
Consignment,  
Ex Lady Lampson,  
FROM LONDON.  
**PLUMMER & PAGDEN**  
Will sell by Auction  
At their Sale-room Wharf St.  
On Saturday Jan. 25,  
AT 11 O'CLOCK A.M.

An invoice of Books and Prints (E. Lupton's consignment) including works on every possible subject, History, Law, Physics, Divinity, Architecture and Fine Arts.  
ALSO  
Light Reading, Romances, Elementary Books in various languages, Children's Books, Illustrated Works, Novels and others, entertaining and educational.  
**PLUMMER & PAGDEN,**  
Auctioneers.  
j20

**AUCTION**  
SALE OF  
Government Buildings  
**PLUMMER & PAGDEN**  
Are instructed by  
**B. W. PEARSE Esq.**  
To Sell at  
Sale-room, Wharf Street,  
Saturday Feb. 8, 1873  
AT 12 O'CLOCK, NOON.

The Buildings on town lots 1103, 1105 and 1107, at present used as a Custom House, Post Office and Barber Shop.  
**Terms Cash.**  
Buildings must be removed before the 15th March. Possession will be given on the 15th February 1873.  
**PLUMMER & PAGDEN,**  
Auctioneers.  
j23

**J. C. TRACY.**  
AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION MERCHANT.  
CONSIGNMENTS of Fruit, received by every steamer.  
Regular Sales every Wednesday and Saturday at 10 1/2 o'clock.  
Consignments solicited. Prompt Returns and moderate charges guaranteed.  
See advertisements for any part of the city or vicinity. Best city references given.

**CHANG KEE**  
Manufacturer of the best brands of  
**HAVANA CIGARS**  
GOVERNMENT STREET, Victoria.  
Next door to Duck & Sandover's Shop. j21 1m

**THE HUDSON'S BAY CO.**  
Offer For Sale at  
**VICTORIA, V. I.,**  
In Bond or Duty Paid.  
A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF  
**DRY GOODS,**  
Clothing, Groceries,  
**WINES, SPIRITS, &c.**  
EX PRINCESS ROYAL and other recent arrivals from London and elsewhere.  
no31 3m

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